AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (previously presented): A computer structure, as claimed in claim 10 or 11, wherein:

said set of network commands includes a read network command and write network command.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A computer structure, as claimed in claim 10 or 11, wherein:

said set of network commands includes a command relating to a network connection.

Claim 5 (original): A computer structure, as claimed in claim 4, wherein:

said command relating to a network connection includes a disconnect command for severing a network connection.

Claim 6 (original): A computer structure, as claim in claim 4, wherein:

said command relating to a network connection includes a ping command for use in determining a network latency.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A computer structure, as claimed in claim 10 or 11, wherein:

said storage device operating system with block storage device processor includes a supervisor that capable of setting up a work queue and a work thread.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A computer structure, as claimed in claim 10 or 11, wherein:

said storage device operating system with block storage device processor includes a request director.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A computer structure, as claimed in claim 10 or 11, wherein:

said storage device operating system with block storage device processor includes a request listener.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A computer structure for use in the storage of blocks of data comprising:

a network attached storage device comprising:

a storage device network interface capable of transmitting/receiving communications to/from a network infrastructure according to a packet protocol;

a block storage device interface capable of transmitting/receiving communications to/from a block data storage device;

a storage device operating system with a block storage device processor that is capable of:

receiving, from said storage device network interface, a network command of a set of network commands that is interface independent relative to block data storage devices, said set of network commands including a read command for use in causing at least one block of data stored on a recording medium of a block data storage device to be read, said read command including a unique block address within the block data storage device;

generating, to carry out said network command, one or more device specific commands for a block data storage device;

transmitting each of said one or more device specific commands to said block storage device interface;

receiving, from said block storage device interface, a response to said one or more device specific commands that satisfies the network command; and

transmitting, to said storage device network interface, said response to said network command; and

a memory comprising:

a host operating system with a host block storage device processor for implementing in a host computer relative to which said network attached storage device would be remote, wherein said host operating system with a host block storage device processor is capable of:

receiving, from an application executing on a host computer, a file command;

translating a file command into a network command of a set of network commands that is interface independent relative to block data storage devices;

transmitting said network command to a network interface associated with the host computer for conveyance over a network infrastructure according to a packet protocol;

receiving a response to a previously transmitted network command from the network interface; and

transmitting, if appropriate, the response to the application as at least a partial reply to the file command.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A computer structure for use in the storage of blocks of data comprising:

a network attached storage device comprising:

a storage device network interface capable of transmitting/receiving communications to/from a network infrastructure according to a packet protocol;

a block storage device interface capable of transmitting/receiving communications to/from a block data storage device;

a storage device operating system with a block storage device processor that is capable of:

receiving, from said storage device network interface, a network command of a set of network commands that is interface independent relative to block data storage devices;

generating, to carry out said network command, one or more device specific commands for a block data storage device;

transmitting each of said one or more device specific commands to said block storage device interface;

receiving, from said block storage device interface, a response to said one or more device specific commands that satisfies the network command; and

transmitting, to said storage device network interface, said response to said network command; and

a host computer with respect to which said network attached storage device is considered remote, said host computer comprising:

a host network interface for transmitting/receiving communications to/from a network infrastructure according to a packet protocol;

a host operating system with a host block storage device processor that is capable of:

receiving, from an application executing on a host computer, a file command;

translating a file command into a network command of a set of network commands that is interface independent relative to block data storage devices, said set of network commands including a read command for use in causing at least one block of data stored on a recording medium of a block data storage device to be read, said read command including a unique block address within the block data storage device;

transmitting said network command to said host network interface for conveyance over a network infrastructure according to a packet protocol;

receiving a response to a previously transmitted network command from said host network interface; and

transmitting, if appropriate, said response to the application as at least a partial reply to the file command.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A network structure, as claimed in claim 10 or 11, further comprising:

a network infrastructure operatively connected to said storage device network interface and said host network interface, wherein said network infrastructure is capable of operating according to a packet protocol.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A computer structure comprising:

a network attached storage device comprising:

a storage device network interface capable of transmitting/receiving communications to/from a network infrastructure according to a packet protocol;

a block storage device interface capable of transmitting/receiving communications to/from a block data storage device;

a storage device operating system with a block storage device processor that is capable of:

receiving, from said storage device network interface, a network command of a set of network commands that is interface independent relative to block data storage devices;

generating, to carry out said network command, one or more device specific commands for a block data storage device;

transmitting each of said one or more device specific commands to said block storage device interface;

receiving, from said block storage device interface, a response to said one or more device specific commands that satisfies the network command; and

transmitting, to said storage device network interface, said response to said network command;

a host computer with respect to which said network attached storage device is considered remote, said host computer comprising:

a host network interface for transmitting/receiving communications to/from a network infrastructure according to a packet protocol;

a host operating system with a host block storage device processor that is capable of:

receiving, from an application executing on a host computer, a file command;

translating a file command into a network command of a set of network commands that is interface independent relative to block data storage devices, said set of network commands including a read command for use in causing at least one block of data stored on a recording medium of a block data storage device to be read, said read command including a unique block address within the block data storage device;

transmitting said network command to said host network interface for conveyance over a network infrastructure according to a packet protocol;

receiving a response to a previously transmitted network command from said host network interface; and

transmitting, if appropriate, said response to the application as at least a partial reply to the file command.

Claim 14 (original): A network structure, as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

a network infrastructure operatively connected to said storage device network interface and said host network interface, wherein said network infrastructure is capable of operating according to a packet protocol.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A computer structure comprising:

a host computer that is remotely located relative to a network attached storage device and comprising:

a host network interface for transmitting/receiving communications to/from a network infrastructure according to a packet protocol;

a host operating system with a host block storage device processor that is capable of:

receiving, from an application executing on a host computer, a file command;

translating a file command into a network command of a set of network commands that is interface independent relative to block data storage devices, said set of network commands including a read command for use in causing at least one block of data stored on a recording medium of a block data storage device to be read, said read command including a unique block address within the block data storage device;

transmitting said network command to said host network interface for conveyance over a network infrastructure according to a packet protocol;

receiving a response to a previously transmitted network command from said host network interface; and

transmitting, if appropriate, said response to the application as at least a partial reply to the file command.

Claim 16 (original): A computer structure, as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:
a network attached storage device comprising:

a storage device network interface capable of transmitting/receiving communications to/from a network infrastructure according to a packet protocol;

a block storage device interface capable of transmitting/receiving communications to/from a block data storage device;

a storage device operating system with a block storage device processor that is capable of:

receiving, from said storage device network interface, a network command of a set of network commands that is interface independent relative to block data storage devices;

generating, to carry out said network command, one or more device specific commands for a block data storage device;

transmitting each of said one or more device specific commands to said block storage device interface;

receiving, from said block storage device interface, a response to said one or more device specific commands that satisfies the network command; and

transmitting, to said storage device network interface, said response to said network command.

Claim 17 (original): A network structure, as claimed in claim 15 or 16, further comprising:

a network infrastructure operatively connected to said storage device network interface and said host network interface, wherein said network infrastructure is capable of operating according to a packet protocol.

Claims 18-20 (canceled)